

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 04757 301216Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 /025 W
-----301219Z 031197 /20

P R 301130Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6446
AMEM ASSY NEW DELHI

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MINISTRY STATEMENT ON "DAILY NEWS" "FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT"
EDITORIAL CARRIED BY SRI LANKA PRESS

REF (A) COLOMBO 4726, (B) COLOMBO 4725

1. SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY-ORIENTED "CEYLON DAILY MIRROR"
CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE DECEMBER 30 ENTITLED "NO
FOREIGN AGENCY BEHIND STRIKE: DEPUTY MINISTER." LEAD
BASED ON STATEMENT AT DEPMIN'S NEWS CONFERENCE DECEMBER
29 (SEE PARA. 4 REF A).

2. GOVERNMENT COALITION PARTNER COMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW'S
DAILY SINHALA ORGAN "ATHTHA" IN LEAD ARTICLE HEADLINED
"NO POLITICAL MOTIVES BEHIND THE STRIKE" ALSO REFERS TO
"DENIAL/ OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN NATION'S CURRENT
DIFFICULTIES. TROTSKYITE LSSP PARTY ORGAN "JANADINA"
LEAD ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONS DEPMIN'S STATEMENT THAT HE
WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND THAT ONLY
THE "DAILY NEWS" EDITOR COULD REPLY TO THE QUESTION.
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3. NEITHER "CEYLON DAILY NEWS" NOR SINHALA-LANGUAGE
DAILY "DINAMINA" (WHICH CARRIED EDITORIAL ON LINES OF
"DAILY NEWS") HAVE REFERRED TO DEPUTY MINISTER'S
STATEMENT.

4. IT APPEARS TO US THAT "SINSITER HAND" OF "FOREIGN
AGENCIES" EDITS IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "LAKE HOUSE"
NEWSPAPERS ARE OUT OF STEP WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY AND
WILL NOT BE REPEATED FURTHER.
VON VLATZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, RAILROADS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB04757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760476-0134
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976125/aaaaadmr.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 4726, 77 COLOMBO 4725
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <16 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTRY STATEMENT ON "DAILY NEWS" "FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT" EDITORIAL CARRIED BY SRI LANKA PRESS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CE
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006